

was in his hands had it destroyed,¹
 The last
 military command of the Chancellor
 was in 1144;
 he accompanied the two royal
 princes in the
 campaign in which they secured the
 frontier along
 the Tronto.

The character of Robert of Selby is
 painted by
 two writers of his native country, John
 of Hex-
 ham tells how William, Archbishop of
 York, staying
 with King Roger, found his Chancellor
 a man of
 the greatest influence among the
 friends of the
 King, and loaded with wealth and
 honours, John
 of Salisbury, moralising on avarice, tells
 how in his
 time, the see of Avellino being vacant,
 Robert
 presided over the election and was
 approached by
 three candidates who each offered
 the Chancellor
 bribes. They were accepted and
 Robert then
 summoned the archbishops, bishops,
 and others to
 try the disputed case, The Chancellor,
 thereupon[^]
 revealed the simony that had been
 attempted, the
 elections were quashed, and a poor
 monk canon*
 ically elected. Apparently Robert, who
 displays
 here a rather grim humour, retained
 the bribes,
 It accords with the character
 ascribed him by
 John of Salisbury, who says that,
 though unlet-
 tered, he was possessed of a most
 acute under-

standing and of distinguished
manners; he was
fluent in the speech of his adopted
country, and,.

¹ *Chron, Ferrer,, op, cit., p, 37, anno 1143:*
"Ptfvitogittm quod
videna ttsmit nee redcHciit prius q«»m ill«d
rtieribat et rtfi
oatendat, Egreditur ijptur de Benevento
cMoelltrius cum prt-
vilegio